GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

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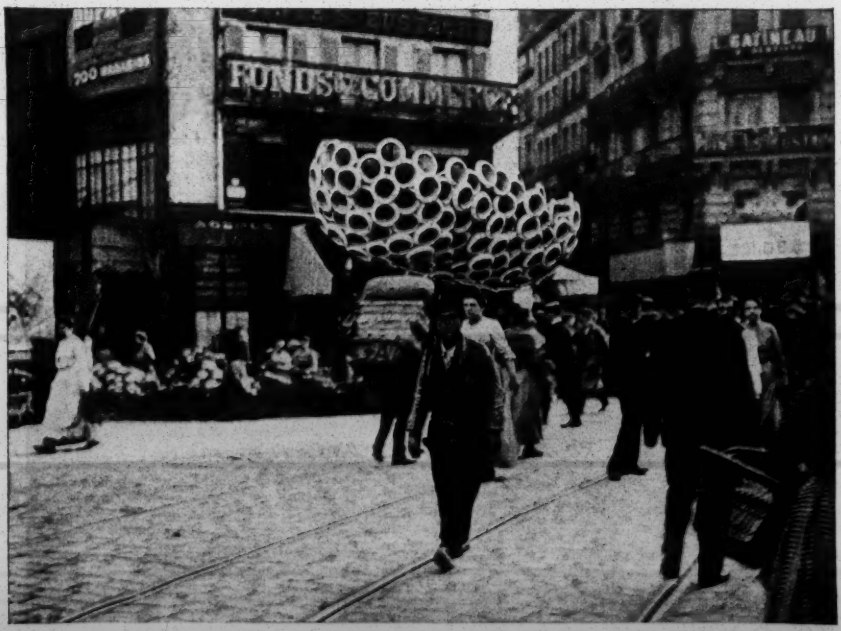

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A FLYPAPER PEDLER ON A FRENCH CITY STREET

His wares, which resemble empty ice-cream cones, illustrate a minor phase of the French inventive genius discussed in Bulletin No. 5. When the purchaser buys the rolled flypaper he is not nearly so apt to feel stuck up by his purchase.

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Poland: A Tragic Nation and Its Heroic People

FOLLOWING the interest in the restoration of Poland's nationality, that reborn nation again is attracting attention because military necessity may compel it to make peace with the Bolsheviki.

The heroic and tragic history of Poland is described in the following extract from the "Races of Europe" number of the *National Geographic Magazine*, by Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor, as follows:

"The restriction of a reunited Poland to its loyal common people will be among the worthiest achievements of the Allies.

"Situated between the upper millstone of Prussia and the nether millstone of Russia, and at the same time subjected to lateral pressure from Austro-Hungarian armies, the land of the Poles during the world war suffered devastation which exceeds the imagination of those who have not actually witnessed the scenes of rapine, pillage, conflagration, and wanton destruction.

Long Rivals and Foes of Russia

"Next to the Russians, of whom they were long the rivals and foes, the Poles are numerically the most important of the Slavs. They first appeared in Great, or North, and Little, or South, Poland in the tenth century, where they found other Slavic tribes in possession. The wise policy of their kings early induced the whole nation to profess Christianity.

"Of medium size, with round heads and healthful faces, the blond more common than the brunette, their physical appearance has apparently changed little. The working classes, who constitute nine-tenths of the nation, have always been laborious, frugal, enduring, temperate rather than abstemious, and intensely patriotic. Those qualities distinguish the thousands of Poles in the United States. Their szlacta, or nobles, have shown themselves impetuous, brave to rashness, chivalrous, insubordinate, emotional, artistic.

"During the formative period Poland was consolidated by the dynasty of the great Lithuanian, Jagellon, the Polish Wadislaus II—a succession of princes unsurpassed in constructive ability. Union with the Lithuanians doubled the population and the natural resources. Together they crushed the Teutonic Knights at Tannenberg in 1410 and half a century later at the peace of Thorn pushed them east of the Vistula. The Polish lands on the Baltic, together with Danzig and Marienberg were recovered. The Duchy of Mazovia, of which Warsaw was the center, five centuries independent, voluntarily joined the kingdom which a few years later spanned Europe from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The Reformation, regarded with a suspicion as having a German origin, only for a time disturbed the country.

"The advantageous situation of the Kingdom, the admirable qualities of its common people, and the development already attained, seemed to assure the greatness and permanence of the Polish State.

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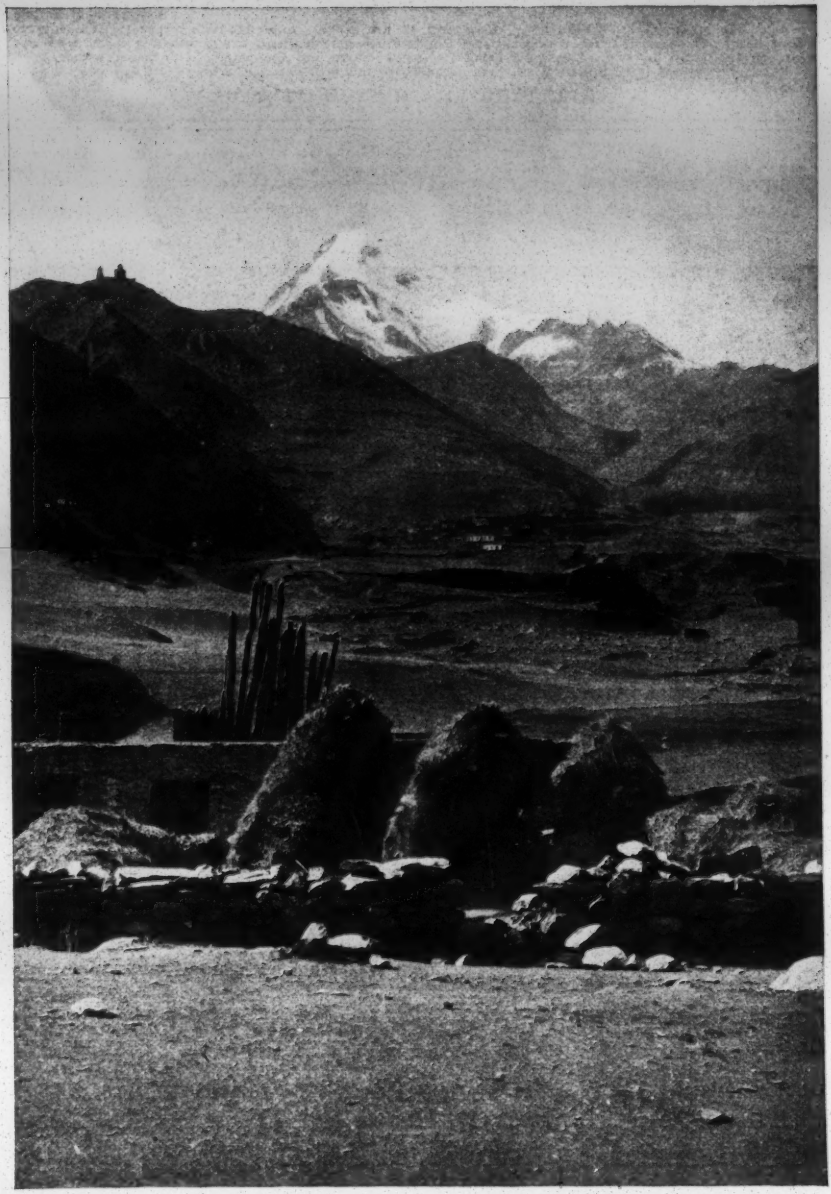

Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams.

A DISTANT VIEW OF MOUNT KASBEK, ONE OF THE HIGHEST SUMMITS OF THE CAUCASUS, THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE HISTORIC HOME OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE (See Bulletin No. 4).

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Doorn: Where Former Kaiser Awaits Result of Extradition Proposal

AFTER the patient Count Bentinck, who had invited William Hohenzollern to Middachten Castle for a few weeks, began to inquire how many more months his ex-royal guest was likely to remain, "His Majesty" took the hint, and prepared to move from Amerongen to a country place he purchased at Doorn.

Draw a line from Amsterdam to Utrecht, Holland, extend it southeastward, and it pierces a low, sandy region of country places, tiny farms, and busy little towns, homes of such genre industries as bee-keeping, cheese-making, and truck-gardening. Among these towns are Maarsbergen, Driebergen, and Zeist, and also Amerongen and Doorn.

All these towns are in Utrecht, smallest province of Holland, being about one-half the area of Rhode Island, and having but a few thousand more people than Providence. There is a certain sameness about these miniature Newports (Nieuwpoort, by the way, is among them) and the man who chafed because his empire was too small, and strove to be conspicuous above all others, now professes to crave only to be let alone in this toyland setting, and to occupy a villa like scores of other substantial, pleasing, but not pretentious places of the Dutch country gentry.

Mottoes by the Road Instead of in the Parlor

It is the whim of those kindly patricians to put a motto by the roadside of their estates, instead of in the parlors, as once did the New England family. He who travels the canals, the trams, or the sandy roads may read such expressive inscriptions as "Well Content," "My Satisfaction," "Joy With Peace," "Pleasure and Repose." Some correspondent may find it worth the cable tolls to wire the adage that adorns the former Kaiser's new home.

When his new neighbors lose interest in Herr Hohenzollern, he might neglect wood-chopping for tramping and find, within this land of easy distances, some pleasurable and profitable "hikes." Breukelen, to the northwest of Doorn, is a little far, about twenty miles, and it conveys a reminder of the United States, in that Brooklyn, New York, is its namesake. From the little town along the Vecht came the early settlers of Long Island where there grew the third largest city in the United States.

Werkhoven, too, had better be avoided. It is a small place, and it was the home of the Van Bramms. It was a Van Bramm who taught George Washington how to fight.

Another Ruler Took Refuge Nearby

At Rhenen the former Kaiser might find an historical companion in misery. Friedrich of Pfalz, the exiled king of Bohemia, took refuge there. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of Rhenen is its tower, imposing for its architecture,

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A Pathetic Story of Valor Wasted

"Yet disappointment meets us on every page. The brilliant passages are episodes without connection or result. Nowhere else is so much valor wasted. The chasm was always widening between the nobles and the common people. The people paid all the taxes. The nobles, all equal, possessed all the wealth and power, but had no sense of obligation or responsibility. Intrepid in battle, they were ready to fight for the country only when so inclined.

"The system of government was oligarchic in the extreme. Succession to the powerless throne was elective, native or foreigner alike eligible. Each election was an orgy of turbulence and bribery. Twice the throne was put up at auction. The liberum veto, established in 1652 whereby the negative vote of a single member of the Diet nullified any act or all the acts of all the rest, culminated the anarchy and eventually brought about the destruction of Poland.

"Yet the criminal follies of a privileged class in no way excuse or palliate the iniquity of the three partitions of Poland in 1773, 1793 and 1795 by Prussia, Russia and Austria. It must be noted that the first partition was confirmed by the Polish Diet, in which nearly all the members accepted foreign bribes.

"The belated heroic resistance of Kosciuszko, of a handful of nobles and of the infuriated common people glorifies the fall of the State which some historians, confused by the farce of election, still called the 'Republic' of Poland up to 1914.

Result of Partitions

"By these partitions Russia acquired 181,000 square miles of territory, with 6,000,000 inhabitants; Austria, 45,000 square miles, with 2,500,000 inhabitants; Prussia, 57,000 square miles, with 2,500,000 inhabitants.

"The Poles under the Austrians were in the main kindly treated. Also, being Roman Catholics, there was no religious antipathy. Under the Russians every harsh measure was employed to accomplish their russification. Those under the Prussians were the most pitiably situated of all. In the effort to make them Germans there was no limit to the systematic, persistent cruelty directed against all classes and ages.

"Poland has enriched the world in music, art, and literature. The national dances, the polonaise and the mazurka, were always accompanied by singing. Copernicus is Poland's greatest name. Sienkiewicz, victim of the world war, by many considered the most brilliant writer of the day, was a Pole, as is Paderewski."

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Fighting Cannibals in 1920

"CANNIBALS!" you may have exclaimed when you read recently of a naval force sent to Malekula Island, of the New Hebrides, to quell attacks of the man-eaters upon white planters, "I thought cannibals had disappeared long ago."

Contrary to general belief the cannibal still is with us, and cannibalism is practiced regularly by some tribes of the numerous South Sea Islands. In other places it is recurrent. Missionaries and agents report it stamped out, and they speak truly, save for occasional lapses into barbarism of these primitive peoples just emerging into the kindergarten stage of their civilization.

Of all the peoples of the vast South Pacific expanse where the white man's influence has been felt at all the Malekula islanders perhaps are the most murderous, treacherous and savage. Not many years ago ethnologists who saw some egg-shaped skulls brought from the island held high hopes that there, at last, might be found the missing link which marked the evolutionary step from monkey to man.

Cone-Shaped Head is Tribal Fashion

Investigation soon disproved any such theory. For the cone-shaped heads of many Malekula islanders is a deformity deliberately produced by wrapping cord about the heads of babies. If the child survives the treatment its egg-shaped head, point upward, is a Malekula distinction akin to the tiny foot of a Chinese woman.

Another custom of Malekula seems equally harrowing. If a woman discloses a gap in the rows of her gleaming white teeth it means that she is married, and that the older women have performed this operation in something of the playful spirit in which rice throwing sometimes is indulged in at an American ceremony.

The male Malekulan is a crack marksman with the bow and poisoned arrow, and as inveterate a clubman as a wealthy American bachelor. In many islands of the New Hebrides each village has its club house, and upon his standing among his club fellows, depends his rank in the community.

Moreover there is a combination community forum, public dance hall, and children's playground under the banyan tree of nearly every native village.

Widows Buried With Husbands' Bodies

There are many differences between the Malekulan and the natives of other islands, though most of them are obviously Melanesian, from their thick, woolly hair, coal black skin, flat noses and heavy lips. The Malekulans are accorded the palm for ferocity and cruelty by many travellers, though they are not unique among the Hebrides natives in these respects. On some islands the women expect to be buried alive with their husbands' bodies.

A redeeming feature of the Malekulans is their scrupulous honesty. A traveller's life may not be worth much if he irritates a native, but his property is absolutely safe. Another Malekula distinction inheres in the wooden ancestor

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but ten times more interesting for its name. It bears the name of Kunera, daughter of the ruler of Orkney Isles, who accompanied Ursula and her 11,000 virgins on a pilgrimage to Rome. Upon their return, according to the legend, now known to have been based on a misreading of a Latin text, the maidens were coming ashore at Cologne when Huns killed them all, except Kunera. Later she leaped to her death from a castle parapet.

From the Moravian settlement at Zeist, the exile might learn much about humility, virtue, and genuine pity. Considerable property is held in common by the residents. Not only are widows distinguished by a special costume, as they are here during a period of mourning, but married women and young girls also may be classified by their attire.

Then, too, there is a monument to another thwarted ambition at Maarsbergen. The Pyramid of Austerlitz was placed there by Marmont's soldiers to commemorate the crowning of Napoleon.

Cellars for Stores and Canals for Streets

The ancient city of Utrecht is but twelve miles to the northwest of Doorn, as the crow flies. That quaint city, with a tier of cellar stores along its canals, surmounted by stately old homes, was the scene of treaty-making which, in its bearing directly on Great Britain, and indirectly on the world, has not been surpassed in importance until the Paris conference in 1919. For it was the Treaty of Utrecht, formulated at the close of the war of the Spanish succession, that amplified the English colonial empire, gave her Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Gibraltar, and developed trade policies that contributed to her world commerce.

Problems of capital and labor, now confronting England and the United States, make the rise of the famous craft guilds, in Utrecht, a timely subject. Little is known of the beginnings of these guilds until suddenly they appeared, about the 14th century, more powerful than either the clergy or temporal rulers who continually were fighting for control of Utrecht.

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Starving Armenia Once Mighty

"INDEPENDENT Armenia," now the cherished hope of a hungry nation, once was a reality, as shown by an interesting sketch of the land's history, from a communication to the National Geographic Society by Hester Donaldson Jenkins:

"Armenia is a word that has widely different connotation for different peoples. To Americans it means a vague territory somewhere in Asia Minor; to the makers of modern maps it means nothing—there is no such place; to the Turks of a few years ago it was a forbidden name, smacking of treason and likely to bring up that bugaboo 'nationalism,' than which Abdul Hamid II feared nothing more, unless it were 'liberty.' But to nearly two millions of Russian, Persian, and Turkish subjects it is a word filled with emotion, one that sends the hand to the heart and calls up both pride and sorrow.

"Armenia is not easy to bound at any period of history, but, roughly, it is the tableland extending from the Caspian Sea nearly to the Mediterranean Sea. Its limits have become utterly fluid; the waves of conquering Persians and Byzantines, Arabs and Romans, Russians and Turks have flowed and ebbed on its shores until all lines are obliterated. Armenia now is not a State, not even a geographic unity, but merely a term for the region where the Armenians live.

Extends to Mount Ararat's Peak

"At the height of its power and at its greatest extent the ancient Kingdom of Armenia consisted of 500,000 square miles of fertile tableland, extending from the Black Sea and the Caucasus Mountains to Persia and Syria. It rises until it reaches 8,000 feet above the sea; then it ascends abruptly to the snow-capped peak of Mount Ararat, which is 1,000 feet higher than Mount Blanc. The land is fertile, rugged, and beautiful.

"Into the soil of this beautiful and historic land the Armenians have thrust deep roots. No brief civilization is theirs, dating back to *Mayflower* or even Norman conquest, but one that is almost coterminous with recorded history; and every Armenian feels behind him this vast antiquity, giving him personal dignity and great national pride. They begin their history with the Garden of Eden, which they claim was in Armenia, basing the claim on the naïve statement that the land is beautiful enough to have included Paradise, and also laughingly asserting that the apples of Armenia were worthy to tempt a most Epicurean Eve. Their first recorded ancestors they find in the book of Genesis.

"Their appearance is definitely eastern; swarthy, heavy-haired, black-eyed, with aquiline features; they look more Oriental than Turk, Slav, or Greek. In general type they come closer to the Jews than to any other people, sharing with them the strongly marked features, prominent nose, and near-set eyes, as well as some gestures we think of as characteristically Jewish. The type is so pronounced that to those who are akin to them they seem often very handsome,

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images found there. These effigies display a resemblance to human beings and attest to latent artistic taste in their crude coloring.

Trouble in the New Hebrides is nothing new. In 1904 an Anglo-French expedition was needed to check a native uprising and nearly two decades earlier the French intervened to suppress a vigorous outbreak.

The New Hebrides were discovered by a Portuguese sailor early in the seventeenth century; explored somewhat and named by Capt. Cook a century and a half later, and were declared neutral by France and Great Britain in 1878. Later agreements provided joint control and administration.

The New Hebrides lie about 1,500 miles northeast of Sydney, Australia. Malekula is one of the larger islands of the goup. The largest is Marina. The seat of government is on the Sandwich Island.

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Meet France, Inventor Nation

NOW that the World War has prompted a careful weighing of Germany's flamboyant claims to preeminence in nearly every scientific field, and found her wanting in many respects, it is well to inquire more closely into the origin of the achievements of human ingenuity which have been boons to mankind.

France, always accounted a literary nation, and now acclaimed more gallant than the world realized, also has to her credit a notable record of scientific achievement, according to a communication to the National Geographic Society, which says:

"France has given no more direction to the literary aspirations of mankind than she has to the scientific endeavors of humanity. Go back to the beginnings of science and you will see her astronomers pointing the way that astronomy has pursued. It was her Pasteur who established the germ theory of disease and through whom the wonderful miracles of saving human life that have characterized the past third of a century have been wrought. The normal death rate of civilized countries before the days of Pasteur was about 30 per thousand of population. Today it is about 15 per thousand in the more progressive nations.

Averting 12,000,000 Deaths a Year

"Think what the saving of 15 lives a year for every thousand of population means when applied to half the earth! It means the averting of 12,000,000 untimely deaths annually. It means more than 25,000,000 cases of illness avoided. It means health and happiness in 20,000,000 homes rather than disease and distress. Who can estimate the benefits to humanity of the wonderful discovery of Pasteur? When one tries to comprehend and to estimate those that may yet flow out of that basic discovery, one's mind is simply unable to grasp it all.

"Certain it is that the life-saving processes reared on the great foundation built by Pasteur are saving more people from beds of sickness and untimely graves than the great war in Europe, with all its terrors, was able to send there.

Radium is Gift of France

"And then we must not forget that radium comes to the world through the French laboratory, and with it the budding science of radio-activity. Who can say what the world's debt to France therefor is going to be? Those who know most about it tell us that we stand with reference to extracting power from the rocks exactly where our forefathers long ages ago stood when they saw the lightning flash set fire to the dead pine tree, but stood ignorant and helpless to reproduce the fire. We know that there are thousands of times as much power wrapped up in radio-active material as there is in coal, thanks to the work of the French laboratories; and when we learn how to harness that power as we have harnessed the power of wood and coal, by promoting the processes of decay, who can adequately portray the possibilities that would follow?

"And while we think of this wonderful new science, whose book France has

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while to westerners they seem a little too foreign-looking. Of course, the type is not always preserved; white skins, even an occasional rosy cheek may be seen, and there is a small number of fair-haired and blue-eyed Armenians.

Oppressed and Persecuted Like the Jews

"The resemblance to the Jews does not stop with physical features, for the fate of the two peoples has been sufficiently similar to bring out common traits. Like the Jew, the Armenian has been oppressed and persecuted, and has developed a strength of nationality, a love for his own people, and a persistence of type rarely seen elsewhere. Like the Jew, he has learned to bend, not break, before the oppressor, and to succeed by artifice when opposed by force. How else had he survived? Like the Jew, he has developed strong business instincts, and like him he has a talent for languages, a power of concentration, and unusual artistic gifts. Both Jews and Armenians are very clever actors.

"Emerging from tradition, a distinct Armenian people appears about 1000 B. C., dwelling on the tablelands near Ararat. Having no natural boundaries, the State was seldom independent, but was subjugated in turn by Babylonia, the Medes and Persians, the Seleucidæ and the Romans. The ancient Oriental idea of conquest left, however, a good chance of national development. Conquest meant little more than tribute. The Armenians boast of a proud culture during the ancient period and lines of noble kings. The Armenians were one of the few ancient peoples who were never Hellenized.

Armenia Flourished During West's "Dark Ages"

"It is in the early Middle Ages—ages that we of the West call 'dark,' but that to the Near East was a period of great culture—that Armenia attained its highest position, and it is through Christianity that it made its contribution to the world.

"In the year 310 A. D., 15 years before the establishment of the Greek Church, the Armenian Church was founded by Krikor or Gregory the Illuminator, and Armenia became the bulwark of Christianity in the East. Gregory was baptized by Christian relatives in his childhood. His story is an interesting one, telling of an early marriage, the birth of two sons; then of his 'vocation' and entrance into a monastery; of his attaching himself to Tiradates, who soon became king; of Tiradates' persecution of Gregory because he would not accept the old gods; of years in prison; of his release in response to a vision; his miracles; the conversion of Tiradates and the baptism of a thousand Armenians, until in eight years Armenia was fully Christianized and the religion was adopted by the State. The mummied hand of Saint Gregory is still laid on the head of every bishop at his consecration.

"The glories of independent Armenia quickly passed. With the seventh century there arose a power in the East more fatal to Armenia than any of her ancient enemies—the religion of Islam. Like fire and water, Islam and Christianity met and struggled, but neither could destroy the other, until they settled down in the same land, sullenly irreconcilable."

opened to the world, we must not forget its elder sister, the science of electricity, which, while harnessed to man's purposes mainly by American inventors, had the foundations upon which they built laid largely in France by such men as Coulomb, Laplace, and Ampere."

Bulletin No. 5, March 8, 1920.

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JEWISH CHILDREN IN POLAND (See Bulletin No. 1)

The reason for the great number of Jews now found in Poland may be traced back to the days of Casimir the Great, a Polish king, whose favorite, Esther, a devoted Jewess, persuaded her royal lover to offer her people a home in his dominions. When Casimir died, in 1370, Polish toleration ended, and during the succeeding centuries the lot of the Jew has been an unhappy on. Marriage vows are taken early by the Jews in Poland; a girl scarcely ceases to play with dolls before she has babies of her own and a woman twenty-five years old is frequently the mother of six or seven children.